Religion in an Expanding Europe

With political controversies raging over issues such as the wearing of headscarves in schools and the mention of Christianity in the European Constitution, religious issues are of growing importance in European politics. In this volume, Byrnes and Katzenstein analyze the effect that enlargement to countries with different and stronger religious traditions may have on the EU as a whole, and in particular on its homogeneity and assumed secular nature. Looking through the lens of the transnational religious communities of Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Islam, they argue that religious factors are stumbling blocks rather than stepping stones toward the further integration of Europe. All three religious traditions are advancing notions of European identity and European union that differ substantially from how the European integration process is generally understood by political leaders and scholars. This fascinating collection of papers makes an important addition to the fields of European politics, political sociology, and the sociology of religion.


Peter J. Katzenstein is the Walter S. Carpenter, Jr. Professor of International Studies at Cornell University. He has written widely on issues of political economy and security in both Europe and Asia. He is the author of many books, including most recently A World of Regions: Asia and Europe in the American Imperium (2005) and Beyond Japan: East Asian Regionalism (co-edited with Takashi Shiraishi, forthcoming, 2006).
Religion in an Expanding Europe

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Preface

We developed the core ideas that inform this book in the fall semester of 2003 when we convened a seminar at Cornell University on “Fracturing an Integrating Europe from the Periphery? Religious Communities and Europeanization.” These sessions were part of Cornell’s Mellon-Sawyer Seminar, “Toward a Transnational and Transcultural Europe,” which was sponsored by the Institute for European Studies at Cornell’s Center for International Studies. We thank the Mellon Foundation, the Institute for European Studies, and the Carpenter Chair at Cornell University for the financial and logistical support of the seminar. And we thank the other members of the steering group of the seminar – Dominic Boyer, David Brown, Davydd Greenwood, and Sidney Tarrow – for their guidance and support.

A workshop hosted by Colgate University in April 2004 provided the venue for converting the conceptual and substantive discussions of our Mellon seminar into draft papers. We thank Colgate University’s Center for Ethics and World Societies for the financial support that made this meeting possible. Substantial, subsequent revisions of these papers yielded a manuscript that received careful scrutiny by two anonymous readers of Cambridge University Press. We are grateful for their expert criticisms and suggestions that guided the final round of author revisions.

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Finally we thank each other. We have convinced each other that religion is of increasing importance in European and world politics and that students of international relations are far too reticent on this
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